



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Apostle Islands
National Lakeshore

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Apostle Islands News Release

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Apostle Islands NL to Host Public Meeting for Wildlife Plan

Plan Will Guide Hunting, Trapping in the Park

The National Park Service (NPS) will be hosting a public meeting from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Tuesday, December 6, 2005 at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. NPS staff will be present to discuss issues related to hunting and trapping within Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. The meeting will be unstructured and informal, allowing the public an opportunity to share their views on hunting and trapping. This input will be important during development of a Harvestable Wildlife Plan for the park.

While hunting and trapping are forbidden in many parts of the National Park System, the 1970 law that created the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore actually *requires* these activities to be permitted in the park, under the applicable laws of Wisconsin and the United States. The purpose of the Harvestable Wildlife Plan will be to devise strategies that will ensure that rewarding harvest opportunities continue to exist in the park, while ensuring the long-term health of native plant and animal communities.

After gathering public input at this meeting, the National Park Service will develop a set of alternatives to address the issues identified, then write a draft Harvestable Wildlife Plan and Environmental Assessment (plan/EA). This draft plan/EA is expected to be released for public comments in the spring of 2006, and will be finalized in the fall.

Interested parties are encouraged to contact Julie Van Stappen at 715-779-3398, extension 211, for documents related to the planning effort and for instructions on how to comment. This information will also be posted soon on the park's web site at www.nps.gov/apis/parkhq.htm#Documents.

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